

**From:** stephen@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 1:48am  
**Subject:** US versus Microsoft

I would like to add my comments concerning the proposed settlement between the DOJ and states versus Microsoft. I very much feel that Microsoft is a monopoly that has abused its monopoly power. Microsoft has not found it sufficient to become a dominant player in the markets in which it works - rather it wants to completely control these markets.

I think that you guys will have had heard many arguments that I could end up rehashing. So let me try a different tack. Like John Ashcroft, I am a Christian. I believe the Bible is the word of God. So let me attempt to argue from a Christian perspective.

I do not think that market forces are God given. In my limited understanding, many of our modern notions of capitalism derive from Adam Smith rather than from any religious ideas. Yet, many today act as though the current economic structure is "natural" - that the way in which businesses fight each other, using market forces to leverage their way to the top, is perfectly legitimate, and that somehow rules like the antitrust laws are simply artificial constraints designed to protect the weaker less able companies. In this view, it is perfectly legitimate to use all ones economic resources to destroy the work of another.

But the economic structure in Old Testament Israel, described in Leviticus 25, was quite different. There were many similarities - there certainly was the concept of ownership - it was not communism. But there were also rules designed so that one person would not become completely economically dominant. In particular, every 50 years debts were cancelled. This meant that land would be restored back to the original family. This meant that indebtitude would not be passed from generation to generation. And most of all, it meant that one person or family could not keep collecting and collecting more and more property and wealth so as to completely dominate everyone else. These laws were meant to control obsessive greed, and God promised severe retribution to those who would disobey or abuse these laws.

I believe that the antitrust laws are good and righteous laws. I believe that it is important both for the spiritual and economic health of the country that these laws be upheld. I very much believe that it is a blessing from God to receive wealth and prosperity, but also that it is wrong to pursue money to the expense of all else - "the love of money is the root of many evils."

I feel that if the Department of Justice fails to pursue the full provisions of the antitrust laws, that ultimately they will allow a bully to go unchecked. Those who have the power to help the weaker

members of society will have stood by and let it happen. Those appointed by God to carry out justice will have defaulted upon their responsibilities.

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